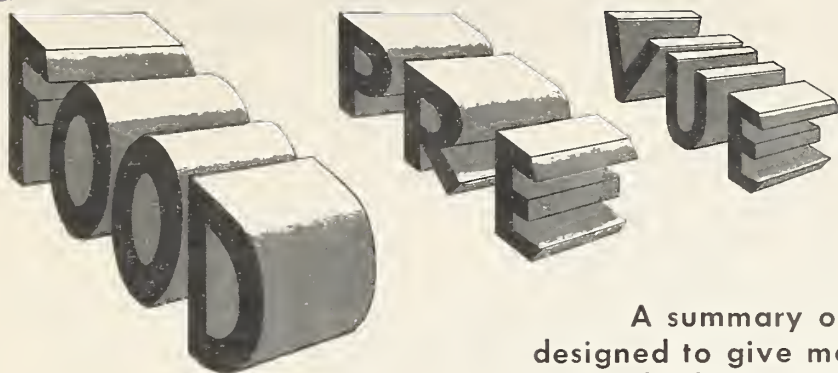


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A summary of the food outlook especially
designed to give maximum advance information
to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

February 26, 1957
F P - 6

- MEAT: Supplies for 1957 will be a little smaller than last year, but will still be large, second only to the 1956 record.
- Beef: Supplies for 1957 probably will be slightly smaller than last year. Number of cattle slaughtered will be about same as in 1956, but average weight will probably be down some. Supplies of better grades of beef will be ample with distribution fairly even throughout the year.
- NOTE: Continuation of severe drought could result in larger cattle slaughter, and thus more beef than now expected.
- Pork: Supplies will be smaller than year earlier through most of 1957. In year's first few months, supplies will be much smaller than a year ago. In months ahead, reduction from last year's levels will become less than in year's first months. By December, supplies may be back to level of year earlier.
- Lamb: For year, supplies will be about same as in 1956. Over first part of year, supplies likely to be up from year earlier, but later supplies could be slightly smaller than last year.
- POULTRY:
- Eggs: Supplies through mid-summer probably will be about same as in 1956. Hatcheries are turning out fewer chicks for laying flock replacement than a year ago. If this continues, egg production during 1957's second half will fall short of the 1956 record.
- Broilers: Supplies are expected to continue somewhat above a year earlier through the summer of 1957. Another new high record for the year is likely.
- Turkey: Much more turkey will be available this year. Current cold storage holdings are record large. More young turkeys will be raised throughout the year. Supplies during year's second half will depend on number of birds actually raised; farmers' Jan. 1 intentions indicated a 10 percent increase. Hatchery operations so far indicate the probability of an even greater increase.
- DAIRY: Production of milk for year promises to set another new record, exceeding that of 1956 by at least two billion pounds.
- FRUITS: Somewhat larger supplies of both fresh and processed expected in 1957's first half than year earlier.
- Citrus: Prospects are for moderately larger supplies of oranges, small increases for lemons, but a little less grapefruit, than in first half last year.
- Deciduous: Moderately more pears for marketing this winter and spring, but slightly less apples, much less grapes, compared with a year earlier.
- Berries: Early-season prospects are for increased supplies of fresh strawberries this spring, with most of increase in late spring.
- Canned: Somewhat more canned fruit available during first half of 1957 than a year earlier, but less canned fruit juice.

Frozen: Somewhat more frozen fruit and fruit juice available for consumption during first half of 1957 than a year earlier.

Dried: Somewhat more dried fruit available for consumption during first half of 1957 than a year earlier.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh: Production for fresh market is expected to be about a tenth smaller this winter than last. Increases are likely for cauliflower, sweet corn, tomatoes, artichokes, brussels sprouts, cucumbers, eggplant, and kale -- probably more than offset by decreases for cabbage, carrots, lettuce, lima beans, snap beans, beets, broccoli, celery, green peppers, shallots, spinach. Smaller supplies of winter cabbage will be supplemented by large storage stocks from 1956 fall crop. Onion stocks also moderately larger than last year. Imports of winter-season vegetables, especially tomatoes, expected to be heavier than last year.

Processed: Record supplies of canned and frozen vegetables available for distribution remainder of this season -- ending about mid-year. Among major canned items, corn, tomatoes, tomato juice, tomato catsup, sauerkraut appear to be in largest supply. But -- except for asparagus, snap beans, spinach -- most other canned vegetables also in larger supply. Supplies of frozen vegetables also substantially larger than year ago.

Potatoes: Supplies available for first half of 1957 probably will be somewhat larger than in same period last year. Stocks of fall potatoes at Feb. 1 were 19 percent larger than year ago. Prospective production of winter-season potatoes (though small compared with winter consumption) is up sharply from year earlier. Growers plan to plant a little larger acreage for both spring and early summer harvests.

Sweet Potatoes: Supplies substantially smaller in first half of 1957 than year earlier.

DRY BEANS: Total supplies are a little smaller this season (ending next August) but appear more than adequate to meet anticipated requirements.

RICE: During first half of year, supplies will be smaller than year ago. Supplies available for distribution through 1956-57 marketing year (ending Aug. 1) are fractionally below record high level of preceding year, but exports are likely to be large.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, will support industry campaigns on the following commodities, at the following times:

EGGS March 1 to March 31

BEEF May 11 to May 18

BROILERS AND FRYERS May 30 to June 8

MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS . June 1 to June 30
